

XVIII.—*Obituary.*

FREDERICK DU CANE GODMAN.

(Plate VI.)

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of our late President, Mr. Godman, on the 19th of February last, after a short illness, at his house in Pont Street. Though for some years past he has not been in robust health, his magnificent constitution has brought him through several very severe attacks, and his death will be a great shock to his many friends.

Fred Godman, except for his younger brother Percy Godman, was the last survivor of the original twenty Members who formed our Union in 1858; a list of these names, drawn up in the handwriting of Prof. Newton, will be found reproduced opposite p. 21 of the Jubilee Supplement of 'The Ibis,' published in 1908. In addition to this Fred Godman served as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Union from 1870 to 1882, and again from 1889 to 1897. In the latter year he was elected President to succeed Lord Lilford, and continued to hold office until 1913, when he resigned owing to ill-health.

Godman was born on the 15th of January, 1834, and was therefore in his 86th year when he died. His father was Joseph Godman of Park Hatch, near Godalming. He was educated at Eton, where he went at the age of ten, but on account of his delicate health, was removed three years later and continued his studies under private tutors. Before going to Cambridge he went for a tour in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, at which time he emulated Byron and Leander by swimming across the Hellespont from Sestos to Abydos. In 1853 he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, where he first met Osbert Salvin, at that time a scholar of Trinity Hall, and the brothers Alfred and Edward Newton, both of Magdalene College. His friendship with Salvin turned his thoughts more directly to Natural History, and thus was formed a unique scientific



In my study
F. D. Godman.

James M. Smith, N.Y.

partnership which lasted until the death of Salvin in 1898.

Godman and his brother Percy attended the meetings of the ornithologists in Alfred Newton's rooms in 1857 and 1858, when Edward Newton, Selater, Simpson (who afterwards took the name of Huddleston and was a distinguished geologist), Wolley, Salvin, Edward Taylor, and Tristram were also present, and when it was finally resolved to found the British Ornithologists' Union.

After leaving the University Godman began his more serious bird-collecting travels. His first expedition was to Bodö, in the north of Norway, in company with his brother Percy, in 1857, when he visited John Wolley in Lapland and travelled through Sweden and parts of Russia. An account of this journey appeared in 'The Ibis' for 1861. In his second journey he accompanied Salvin to Guatemala, where the latter had already been in 1857 and 1859. This expedition was planned in order to investigate the fauna and flora of Central America with a view of throwing some light on the problems of geographical distribution and its bearing on evolution, in which subject the recent publication of Darwin's 'Origin of Species' had aroused great interest.

After spending three weeks in Jamaica the two travellers landed at Belize in British Honduras, and thence, taking passage in a coasting schooner, reached Yzabal on the Golfo Dulce. Here they remained a few days, making preparations for the journey and engaging Indians and mules to transport themselves and their luggage to the interior.

Crossing the Mico range, a few days were spent at Quirigua, where the great Howling Monkey (*Myctes*) which frequents the dense forest in troops, making night hideous with its howls, was first met with. Some time was also spent in photographing the Indian ruins and exploring the forest in the vicinity. In those days there were no dry plates, and everyone had to carry with him the materials for preparing and developing his own plates, and the whole apparatus was exceedingly cumbrous and difficult to manage. From Quirigua the mule-track was followed through the

valley of the Motagua river to Zacapa and thence to Guatemala City. After a few days at the capital they proceeded to Dueñas, staying at the house of Mr. William Wyld, a friend of Salvin's. The time there was spent in collecting, chiefly in the high forests of the Volcan de Fuego, and in an excursion to Esequintla on the Pacific coast. They then retraced their steps to the capital, and crossing the Chuacus Range into the plain of Salama, stayed for a time at the Hacienda of San Gerónimo. Later on, at Cubilguitz, in the low damp forest of the Alta Vera Paz, Godman contracted a fever and was unable to accompany Salvin in his arduous journey on foot to Peten. Soon after this, visiting on his way the Alotepeque silver mines and the Copan ruins in Honduras, Godman reached the Atlantic coast again at Yzabal, meeting Salvin, who went back into the interior, while Godman himself came home.

Three years later Godman went to the Azores for the purpose of investigating the fauna and flora of those islands. Already the careful researches of Wollaston and others had brought to light many interesting forms from Madeira, the Canaries, and Cape Verde Islands, but the Azores had been but little explored zoologically. Accompanied by his brother, Capt. Temple Godman, and subsequently joined by Mr. Brewer, a well-known entomologist, he visited all the islands of the group except Santa Maria; he returned with a good representative collection of birds as well as of the other groups of animals. Among the birds was the new Bullfinch of St. Michael's, described and figured in 'The Ibis' for 1866 under the name of *Pyrrhula murina*. In 1870 he published the results of this expedition in book-form under the title of 'The Azores,' and also set forth his reasons for believing that the Azores had never formed a continent or part of a continent and had derived their fauna and flora from neighbouring lands, chiefly western Europe. The visit to the Azores was followed by one to the Canaries and Madeira in 1871, some account of which appeared in 'The Ibis' for the following year. Owing to quarantine regulations his movements were somewhat curtailed, and his investigations were limited to Tenerife and Madeira.

In the autumn of 1887, having been ordered abroad for the sake of his health, Godman visited Mexico to add to his collections from that country. In order, however, to gain full advantage from the expedition, he procured the services of Messrs. W. B. Richardson and Lloyd, who devoted their attention particularly to birds, and while Lloyd was working in the northern States, Richardson accompanied Godman himself to the southern tropical districts of Orizaba and Vera Cruz. Other assistants were Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Smith, who had previously been in Brazil, and a half-bred Indian, Mateo Trujillo, who proved to be a first-rate collector. A further excursion to Yucatan brought him in contact with Mr. F. Gaumer, a well-known collector, and enabled him to visit some of the celebrated ruins of that curious land.

Many other journeys were made by Godman, including one to India in 1886 in company with Mr. Elwes, and others to Egypt and South Africa with Mrs. Godman.

But we must now turn to the '*Biologia Centrali-Americana*,' without doubt the greatest work of the kind ever planned and carried out by private individuals and which must always be a monument "*aere perennius*" to the energy and munificence of Salvin and Godman.

The collections amassed by the two friends, together with a large library of books, were first of all stored in Salvin's house in Kensington. On Salvin's appointment to the Curatorship of the Strickland Collection of Birds at Cambridge, it was necessary to find another home for the Museum and Library. For this purpose a house in Tenterden Street, Hanover Square, was taken. Subsequently in 1878 the collections were moved to Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, where they remained until after Salvin's death, when they were gradually handed over to the British Museum.

It was in 1876 that the '*Biologia*' was first thought of, and three years later (September 1879) the first part appeared. The method of publication was to bring out six quarto parts a year, each to contain twelve sheets made up of various subjects with six coloured plates, the plates and letterpress so numbered and paged that the parts might ultimately be broken up and bound together in their respective volumes

when completed. It was originally proposed to issue the work in sixty parts, but owing to the ever increasing amount of material received from the collectors, the zoological parts alone numbered 215, and it was not until June 1915 that the last one was issued.

The work, as completed, consists of 63 volumes, of which one forms the Introduction, 51 are occupied with Zoology, 5 with Botany, and 6 with Archæology. The whole of it was edited by Salvin and Godman, and after Salvin's death in 1898 by Godman alone. The three volumes on the Birds and three others on the Diurnal Lepidoptera were prepared by Salvin and Godman themselves, while the others were written by various specialists. The volumes contain altogether 1677 plates, of which more than 900 are coloured, and the total number of species described is 50,263, of which 19,263 are described for the first time.

In 1885 Godman and Salvin resolved to present their wonderful Neotropical collections to the British Museum, and it was arranged that as soon as the portions of the 'Biologia' containing the descriptions of the particular group were published, the specimens should be transferred to the National Collection.

Of bird-skins alone over 520,000 were contained in this magnificent donation. It included not only the collections made by Salvin and Godman themselves chiefly in Guatemala, but many others from various parts of South America, the Mexican collections obtained by Godman himself and his collectors when in that country in 1887, and the great Henshaw collection of the Birds of the United States, containing over 13,000 specimens, which was secured by Godman in order to have a thoroughly authentic series of North American birds for comparison with those of Mexico and Central America.

In 1907 Godman determined to complete a plan which Salvin had contemplated of preparing a work on the Petrels and Albatrosses. Salvin, who had written the portion of the 'Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum' dealing with this group, had intended to supplement it by an illustrated

monograph, and with this end in view some forty coloured plates by Mr. Keulemans had been executed. Securing the help of the late Dr. Sharpe, Godman issued in parts between 1907 and 1910 this work, which added much to our knowledge and gave a great stimulus to the study of this little-known group.

Botany and horticulture were always favourite subjects with Godman, and at his country house near Horsham he had formed one of the most beautiful gardens in Sussex, and had one of the best collections in England of rhododendrons, alpine plants, and orchids. He also formed what is one of the finest collections of Persian and Oriental glazed pottery.

From his early days Godman exhibited an intense love of sport, which showed itself in the varied pursuits of hunting, fishing, shooting, and stalking. As a boy he kept a pack of beagles, and later on a pack of harriers, with which he hunted in the counties of Surrey and Sussex. He was also a constant follower of Lord Leconfield's hounds, and of those of his brother Col. C. B. Godman, for some years Master of the Crawley and Horsham pack. For many years he rented deer-forests in Scotland, and held Glenavon from the Duke of Richmond for eighteen years. He was also devoted to salmon-fishing, and rented rivers both in Ireland and Scotland.

Many honours fell to Godman. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1882. He was for many years Vice-President and Member of Council of the Zoological Society, President of the Entomological Society, Gold Medallist of the Linnean Society in 1918, and Trustee of the British Museum: and the University of Oxford conferred on him the honorary degree of D.C.L. He was also a Fellow of the Linnean, Geological, and Royal Geographical Societies.

Godman was a fine example of an English scientific country gentleman. He was devoted to open-air life, sport and travel, and he resolved to use his natural inclination and his large private means to the permanent advance of knowledge. His cheerful and kindly disposition made him universally beloved.

His first wife, a daughter of the late Mr. J. H. Elwes of Colesborne, Gloucestershire, died in 1875. His second wife, now Dame Alice Godman, D.B.E., is a daughter of the late Major Percy Chaplin, and survives him with two daughters.

We are indebted to Mr. H. J. Elwes, his brother-in-law, for the following personal appreciation of Mr. F. Godman:—

I first met Godman in 1866, when I joined the B. O. U., and ever since have looked on him as my best and dearest friend. I think that it was largely owing to his and Salvin's example that I was able to become something more than an egg-collector, and it was with Godman that I went in June 1866 to take a nest of the Honey-Buzzard, two or three pairs of which then bred annually in the New Forest. The story of the ingenious fraud which was unsuccessfully played on us by a notorious egg-collector, who was afterwards burnt to death at Stoney Cross, within a mile of the place where he showed us the nest, was known to many old Ibises now departed, and was a standing joke against us for years. Godman at that time was as keen a collector as John Wolley himself, and in company with his brother walked across Lapland from the Arctic coast to the Gulf of Haparanda after the summer which he spent at Bodö. A few years later he and I spent a month in company with Osbert Salvin and W. A. Forbes collecting butterflies in the Alps, and I can say that he had as much interest in that pursuit as he had in ornithology, and did much to encourage me in what I still look on as a most attractive branch of natural history. The collections which Salvin and he commenced in Guatemala gradually grew, till they became by far the most important that have ever been made from Central America.

Godman was always very fond of deerstalking, and in the sixties used to stalk annually in the "Park" of the Island of Lewis, which he rented in company with the late Mr. A. Bonham-Carter, and he became a most accomplished stalker and very deadly rifle-shot. Later on he rented the stalking of a large sheep-farm in West Ross-shire in company with

his brother Joseph, where they had grand sport with an old-fashioned Highland shepherd, who was a great character, and very fond of Godman. When asked by one of Lord Lovat's stalkers, who was jealous of their success, what sport they were having at Kilelan, he replied, "There is no a good stag coming on our ground, but he will go off on a pony." And later on, when Godman rented the Duke of Richmond's forest of Glenavon, he killed in his 70th year eight stags in one day with eight successive shots. He was also very fond of hunting, and though not what one would call a thrusting rider, was bad to beat in the Crawley and Horsham country, where he lived, and where his brother, Col. C. B. Godman, was for many years M.F.H.

In 1880 we made a short trip to India together, and after visiting the late Mr. Allan Hume at Simla, went to Sikkim and got as far into the interior as the snow would then allow. Even at this time Godman, though a very good walker, had a slight weakness in the heart, which was affected at very high elevations, and on one occasion, when we had to camp on a cold frosty night in a hut half full of snow at 12,500 feet, he was so much overcome by the exertion of climbing in the snow at this altitude, that for a time I was very anxious about his recovery.

When we were at Darjeeling, the only known specimens of that wonderful butterfly *Bhutanites lidderdalii* had been taken near Buxa Dooar, and Godman undertook a long and dangerous journey through the fever-stricken Dooars in order to try to find out exactly where it occurred. In this he failed, and it was only years afterwards that a better knowledge of this beautiful insect was obtained by the late Mr. Doherty in the Naga Hills (*cf.* P. Z. S. 1891, p. 249). Inspired by the voyage of the 'Marchesa,' Godman and I formed a plan about this time to make a journey to the Malay Islands, but this for various reasons was never carried out; and perhaps it was as well that his interest was never diverted from Central America, or his great life-work, the 'Biologia,' might never have been completed.

Later on he had a clot of blood in the veins of his leg,

which obliged him to winter in a warmer climate, and he went to Mexico in the autumn of 1887, where he asked Mrs. Elwes and myself to join him in the winter. He had the help of a very able American collector of birds and insects, and we had a good Mexican bird-skinner with us. We ascended the volcano of Popocatepetl to the limit of vegetation, and put up 60 good bird-skins as the result of one long day's collecting between 6000 and 12,500 feet.

Godman began about this time to be much interested in plants also, and collected orchids and other rare and interesting plants which he grew very skilfully at South Lodge, where he formed a most beautiful garden and built a rockery, which is second to none in the south of England.

South Lodge was originally quite a small house, on the south wall of which grew a very fine *Camellia*, which now covers almost the only part of the house which was left when it was rebuilt. He bought by degrees a good deal of land in the neighbourhood, much of which he farmed himself. I do not think any man ever had a happier life at home, or was more beloved by his numerous relatives, employés, and friends; and even when in later years his health began to fail, he was so carefully watched over by his devoted wife and daughters, and had such a genial and cheerful disposition, that he never lost his interest in his private or public pursuits and preserved his unvarying good temper and sweetness of disposition, through long periods of confinement to the house.

The number of persons of all ranks in life who followed him to the grave is the best testimony to the respect and esteem in which he was held by all who knew him.

List of the writings of Mr. F. D. Godman on ornithological subjects.

Notes on the Birds observed at Bodö during the spring and summer of 1857 (with Percy Godman). *Ibis*, 1861, pp. 77-92.

Notes on the Birds of the Azores. *Ibis*, 1866, pp. 88-109.

Natural History of the Azores or Western Islands. Pp. 1-238, 2 maps. London, 1870, 8vo.

- Notes on the Resident and Migratory Birds of Madeira and the Canaries. *Ibis*, 1872, pp. 158-177, 209-224.
- Description of two apparently new Species of Peruvian Birds. *Bull. B. O. C.* x. 1899, p. xxvii.
- A Monograph of the Petrels (Order Tubinares). Pp. i-lvi & 1-382, 103 pls. London (Witherby), 1907-1910, 4to.

With Mr. O. Salvin.

- On a Collection of Birds from the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, Colombia. *Ibis*, 1879, pp. 196-206.
- On the Birds of the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, Colombia. *Ibis*, 1880, pp. 114-125, 169-178, pls. iii., v.
- On an apparently new Species of Pigeon of the Genus *Otidiphaps* from Southern New Guinea. *Ibis*, 1880, pp. 364-366, pl. xi.
- On some new and little-known Species of Trochilidæ. *Ibis*, 1881, pp. 595-599, pl. xvi.
- Notes on Birds from British Guiana. *Ibis*, 1882, pp. 76-84, pl. i.; 1883, pp. 203-212, pl. ix.; 1884, pp. 443-452, pls. xiii., xiv.
- Description of a recently discovered Species of *Paradisea*. *Ibis*, 1883, pp. 199-202, pl. viii.
- Notes on Mexican Birds. *Ibis*, 1889, pp. 232-243.
- On a new Finch of the Genus *Pheucticus* from Guatemala. *Ibis*, 1891, p. 272.
- Descriptions of Five new Species of Birds discovered in Central America by W. B. Richardson. *Ibis*, 1891, pp. 608-612.
- On a Collection of Birds from Central Nicaragua. *Ibis*, 1892, pp. 324-328.
- Biologia Centrali-Americana. Aves.* Vol. I. pp. i-xliv & 1-512; Vol. II. pp. 1-598; Vol. III. pp. 1-510; Vol. IV., 79 pls. London (Porter), 1879-1904.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The death of the Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, which took place at his home, Sagamore Hill, Long Island, U.S.A., on 6 January last, when in his 61st year, cannot be passed over in the pages of 'The Ibis,' although he was never directly connected with the B. O. U. His services to ornithology were, however, very considerable, and we are very grateful to Lieut.-Commdr. J. G. Millais, R.N.V.R., for the following eulogy of his life and work.

Nearly all ages and nations produce men of exceptional physical and mental capacity that tower above their fellows.

From youth upwards they exhibit a strong disposition to lead others and allow none of those obstacles that deter lesser creatures to obstruct the path of ambition and success. Theodore Roosevelt was one of these "super-men," and though born with advantages superior to the common lot, there was always the irresistible verve about him that carries others on and arrests attention. Even when reading his first writings in the 'Century' Magazine, where he describes how he captured two desperadoes in the heart of the Rockies and took them unaided in the depth of winter over hundreds of miles of desolate prairies to the nearest settlement where they could be tried and convicted, he exhibited the fact that he was not only a man of exceptional courage and resource but also one out to do his duty to his country. His rural life on the Little Missouri taught him many things, and above all made him a lover of the great out-of-doors with its birds, beasts, and virile men. Yet in all his life he always placed his sports and private tastes in a category subservient to the one aim and object of his life, which was to lead the people to better and higher things, to form the National policy of his country and to clean Government and private concerns of those undesirable elements which clog the wheels of all progress. That was why he attacked the meat-packers of Chicago and the rotten police system of New York; and if his detractors accused him of only stirring up the mud without cleansing the stables of Augeus, they forgot the honesty of purpose and the difficulty of achieving successful results in a land, at any rate at that time, seething with dirt and venal corruption.

Readers of 'The Ibis,' however, are more concerned with Roosevelt the Naturalist than Roosevelt the President or Social Reformer. From his childhood he told me he always loved birds and animals. By the time he was sixteen he knew all the birds of his early home and had studied the principal works of American Ornithology. When he was eighteen he went to Egypt and made a small collection of Nile Valley birds, which I think he afterwards presented to some museum. After this he does not seem to have

indulged in further collecting beyond superintending the work of his naturalists in the course of his big expedition to Africa.

As a matter of fact, his knowledge of American and African birds was very considerable, for he was so thorough in all he did that when undertaking any new project his method was to thoroughly study the literature of the subject, and this, combined with his marvellous memory, enabled him to begin his work better equipped than most men.

We have heard much of Roosevelt the talker and Roosevelt the Politician teaching all and sundry their business with equal confidence, but I think his greatest asset was hard work and a superb memory. He took trouble to make himself agreeable and well-informed, and seemed to know as much about other people's tastes and family history as they did themselves. I remember the first time I met him at a luncheon party at Lord Lonsdale's in 1908. He spoke in turn to nearly every man there and was cognisant of all their past history and activities, because I feel sure he had read it all beforehand. I suppose I was the only man he had not addressed, and just as all were leaving he came up to me and said, "I seem to know your face, who are you"? "Millais is my name," I replied. "What! Breath from the Veldt Millais," he said enthusiastically, "you've just got to sit down right here and have a chat. I don't know when I have been so pleased to meet anyone."

That was just the nice way he had of being agreeable, and if we did not have a chat, I listened at any rate for some twenty minutes with absorbed interest to his views of Nature and the Zoology of South Africa, of which he displayed, contrary to my expectations, a very considerable knowledge. He described Bustards, Plovers, Raptorial, Cranes, Francolins, etc. in a way that quite astonished me, although I knew he could not have seen them, and when I made some comment, he said he had read every work on the Birds and Mammals of Africa he could obtain at the

library at Washington before starting on his journey. It is one thing to read books, especially on birds, and quite another thing to remember all their contents, but I must confess that on this and subsequent occasions on which I had the pleasure of talking "birds" to Roosevelt the power of his memory filled me with admiration.

His views on modern nomenclature were somewhat surprising and not always consistent. At first he seemed to be inclined to favour the inclusion as subspecies of all local forms. This is borne out by his acceptance and even approval of the naming of the collections of the Roosevelt expedition, which included many new birds and mammals as subspecies which even the most enthusiastic advocates of local forms could scarcely accept. On the other hand, after due consideration and some time had elapsed he became a very orthodox "lumper," and laughed at the claims of the "splitters." The case in point which caused his conversion to the former group was, he told me, an occasion when he submitted the skulls of three bull *Bos caffer* which his party had shot out of one herd at one place in East Africa to Professor Matschie of Berlin. The learned zoologist in question pronounced them as the skulls of three different subspecies, giving each and all separate names.

More recently Roosevelt himself expressed his views on scientific nomenclature:—"The time has passed when we can afford to accept as satisfactory a science of animal life whose professors are either mere roaming field collectors or mere closet catalogue writers who examine and record minute differences in 'specimens' precisely as philatelists examine and record minute differences in postage stamps, —and with about the same breadth of view and power of insight into the essential. Little is to be gained by that kind of 'intensive' collecting and cataloguing which bears fruit only in innumerable little pamphlets describing with meticulous care unimportant new subspecies, or new species hardly to be distinguished from those already long known. Such pamphlets have almost no real interest except for the infrequent rival specialists who read them

with quarrelsome interest."—Introduction to 'Tropical Wild Life in British Guiana,' by William Beebe (1917).

Although it must be acknowledged that Roosevelt's favourites amongst wild creatures were the larger mammals, and especially the dangerous ones, which afforded opportunities in the excitement of the chase of thrilling moments, his delight in the birds of Africa and America always displayed the feelings of the true naturalist, whose chief instinct is not to slay but to sit down and study the ways of wild creatures in their natural homes. In spite of his abundant energy the President had also a reflective side to his character and a very real appreciation of all that is best in Art and Nature. He loathed what was false and untrue to life as sincerely as a man like Selous. As an instance of this, his excellent papers on the falsity of protective coloration are a good example, and did much to controvert the crystallized opinions of theoretical men of science, who for the most part had no knowledge of the action of Nature on the spot.

On occasion Roosevelt was inclined to be dogmatic and, as I have remarked, somewhat inconsistent. I remember once, after he returned from his African trip and his excellent book ('African Game-trails') had been published, giving me a lecture of about twenty minutes (with scarcely a pause to take breath) on the superiority of pictures done on the spot by a zoological artist over all forms of instantaneous photography. At last, when I managed to get a word in, it was impossible to refrain from saying, "If these are your opinions, why did you not take an artist with you instead of a photographer"? "Well, you have got me there," he admitted, laughing, "I could not have found the right man, and if I had it is doubtful if he would have come." "What was the matter with Carl Rungins? Did you ask him?" I suggested. There was no answer to this, for had Roosevelt taken Rungins to Africa with him we should have had a magnificent pictorial record of the larger mammals of Africa, which would have made his book one of permanent interest, and then we should have been spared that dreadful

series of bad portraits of the author standing in fatuous attitudes over mangled corpses of deceased hartebeests, lions, and zebras.

Roosevelt probably knew this himself, but his book was written for the man in the street, and so he perhaps felt that those horrible portraits were expected of him, but it only reminds us of Corney Grain's

"Choir-boy whose voice o'er-topped the rest,
Though very in-artistic, the public like it best."

Theodore Roosevelt was certainly one of the most remarkable men of this or any other time. In person he was the embodiment of physical fitness, being an expert rider and shot and skilled in most games. Mentally he was a giant whose broad vision ranged over a vast variety of subjects. At one sitting I have heard him discuss Big Game hunting, Bimetallism, Zoology, Geography, National Policy, European History, Botany, Paleontology, Archaeology, and ancient forms of religion, bringing to each and all a thoroughness, accuracy, wealth of detail, and breadth of criticism that was astonishing did we not know the extent of his reading and the power of his memory. His active brain was a complete bibliography of a thousand subjects, and at a moment's notice he could give you chapter and verse to which to refer in regard to any point at issue. No man living could have produced two such diverse volumes as 'Presidential Addresses and State Papers' and 'Through the Brazilian Wilderness,' and if we add to this his experience as a soldier and exposition of his New Bible, we can obtain some slight grasp of his mental and physical activities.

Amongst the successes of his life may be mentioned the impetus he gave to the research for the elimination of yellow fever in the Canal Zone, and what to naturalists was a work of great importance was his continuous advocacy of the preservation of the Fauna and Flora of the North American continent. In this he certainly achieved

a great measure of success, although in many instances we fear his efforts came too late.

Personally he was a man of charming disposition, full of thought for others, ever alive to better the lot of the unfortunate, and possessed of that kindly sympathy which we always associate with really great men. His attitude to us during the Great War was that of intense sympathy and understanding, and in him England has lost her best advocate for future policy as well as her best friend amongst the statesmen of the world.

THE MARCHESE GIACOMO DORIA.

We much regret that it is only quite recently that the news of the death of the Marchese Doria, which took place so far back as 19 September, 1913, has reached us. He was elected a Foreign Member of the Union so long ago as 1875, and was by many years the doyen of his class.

Born in 1840 at Spezia, of the historically celebrated race of the Dorias of Genoa, Giacomo Doria was educated under private tutors and at the University of Genoa. From his earliest youth he was a collector and observer in zoology and botany as well as a traveller. In 1862 he accompanied an Italian Mission to Persia with Lessona and Dr. F. de Filippi: the scientific results of this journey were published by the latter in his well-known 'Viaggio in Persia.' Later, in 1865, he undertook with Beccari an expedition to Borneo, and with the collections thus amassed, together with others previously obtained, he founded the Civic Museum of Genoa. Not only did Doria provide the funds for the maintenance of this Museum, but through his munificence it was enriched with the collections from New Guinea made by Beccari, D'Albertis, and Loria, those from Burma made by Fea, and others from many other parts of the world, so that the Genoa Museum soon became the leading Zoological Museum of Italy.

To publish the results of his zoological explorations Doria founded the 'Annali del Museo Civico' in 1870, forty-six

volumes of which have been published, again almost entirely at the sole cost of the founder.

The most modest of men, Doria himself wrote but little, and that chiefly on Mammals and Reptiles, but his munificence to natural science can never be forgotten.

In addition to his zoological activities Doria was a man of affairs, and in 1890 was chosen a Senator of Italy. He was also President of the Royal Geographical Society of Italy from 1891 to 1901.

LOUIS BRASIL.

We learn with deep regret of the death of Prof. Brasil, of Caen in France, on 15 October, 1918, at the comparatively early age of fifty-three. He was elected a Foreign Member of the Union in 1917.

Though born in Paris in 1865, Prof. Brasil lived most of his time at Caen, where he was brought up, where he obtained his education, and where his scientific career was carried through. He was Lecturer and afterwards Professor of Zoology in the University, and was for a period President of the Linnean Society of Normandy.

Prof. Brasil's writings were by no means confined to ornithological subjects. He published several papers on geological problems, while the thesis which gained for him the degree of "Docteur ès sciences" at the Sorbonne dealt with the digestive apparatus of Polychæte worms.

Later on the rich collections of the Museum of Natural History at Caen furnished him with material for work on the higher groups of the animal kingdom. He contributed several papers and short notes to the '*Revue Française d'Ornithologie*,' and in 1914 published a little work on the '*Shore- and Water-Birds of France, Belgium, and the British Islands*,' which was favourably noticed in our columns (*Ibis*, 1914, p. 326). He also wrote on the King Island Emu supposed to have been obtained by Péron, and other papers on the birds of New Caledonia, in which he was specially interested: while to our own pages he sent a little essay, written in very good English, on the

subject of *Turdus minutus* Forster (Ibis, 1917, p. 422). For Wytzman's 'Genera Avium' he prepared several fascicules dealing with the Cranes, Apteryges, Cassowaries, and Emus.

All Brasil's work was characterized by the qualities of order and precision, and he was a most careful and accurate writer.

His death, which took place at the Marine Laboratory of the University of Caen, at Luc-sur-mer, after a prolonged and painful illness, is a great loss to the somewhat sparse ranks of French ornithologists.

We have also to record the recent deaths of Mr. N. Chaplin, Mr. Frederick Sharman, and Mr. J. C. McLean, all Members of the Union. We hope to give further details in the next number of 'The Ibis.'

XIX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Bangs on various birds.

[Notes on the species and subspecies of *Pæcilonitta* Eyton. By Outram Bangs. Proc. New England Zool. Club, vi. 1918, pp. 87-89.]

[A new genus of Caprimulgidae. Id., ibid. pp. 91-92.]

[A new race of the Black-throated Green Wood-Warbler. Id., ibid. pp. 93-94.]

[List of birds collected on the Harvard Peruvian Expedition of 1916. By Outram Bangs and G. K. Noble. Auk, xxxv. 1918, pp. 442-462.]

In the first note Mr. Bangs recognizes two forms of the Bahama duck: *Pæcilonitta bahamensis bahamensis* (Linn.), from the Bahamas, Antilles, Guiana, and northern Brazil, and *P. b. rubrirostris* (Vieill.) from southern South America (type locality, Buenos Aires). With the same genus he associates *P. galapagensis* Ridgw., *P. spinicauda* (Vieill.) from southern South America, usually associated with the genus *Dafila*, and *P. erythrorhyncha* (Gmel.) of Africa.

In the second note a new generic name *Veles* is proposed for a rare West African Nightjar, *Caprimulgus binotatus* Bp.